



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
*Harold Runnels Building*  
*1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110*  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110*  
*Telephone (505) 827-2855*  
*Fax (505) 827-2836*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, Communications Dir.  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

**Environment Department Urges Public to Participate in Effort to Update,  
Streamline and Improve Solid Waste Permitting and Regulation**

(Santa Fe, NM) —The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Solid Waste Bureau is in the process of updating the state's Solid Waste Management Regulations. Changes proposed include promoting recycling and composting by waiving most permit requirements for these facilities, and addressing environmental justice issues by requiring community impact reports for all new landfills. The draft regulations are available at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/swbmain.htm>

NMED will be accepting public comments on these draft regulations June 30 – July 22. The Department will also hold four public meetings on this issue:

**Albuquerque**

**Wednesday, July 6, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

Sandia Conference Room  
NMED District I Offices  
5500 San Antonio Dr NE

**Las Cruces**

**Monday, July 11, 1-7 p.m.**

Suite 300 S  
WERC Offices  
NMSU Campus  
Engineering Complex III  
1060 Frenger Mall

**Santa Fe**

**Friday, July 8, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

Auditorium (first floor)  
New Mexico Environment Department Main Office  
1190 St Francis Dr

**Artesia**

**Tuesday, July 12, 1-7 p.m.**

Artesia Recreation Center  
612 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Once all comments are reviewed by NMED, the Department plans to take the final draft regulations before the state Environmental Improvement Board in the fall.

NMED is also working with the New Mexico Municipal League and Association of Counties to speed up the solid waste facility permitting review processes.

"Currently, we are averaging a two year review time on solid waste permit applications," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "I believe that we can be faster while still being thorough and protecting the

environment. The changes we have proposed are designed to cut response times in half and better serve New Mexicans.”

Proposed changes include cutting NMED’s in-house review and response times and limiting requests for additional information from permit applicants to two.

“These changes are not designed to cut corners or make getting a landfill permit any easier than it should be,” said Secretary Curry. “Landfills are serious operations with significant local impacts. These changes should only allow us to make decisions more quickly, whichever decision is the correct one.”

For further information, contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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